Notice of Public Availability

From: Libby Lucas

California Department of Fish & Game

South Coast Region 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego, CA 92123

Subject: Notice of Public Availability of Proposed Planning Agreement

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is considering the entry into a Planning Agreement under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) (as amended in 2002 by SB107 and SB2052) with the County of San Diego (County) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This notice announces the availability of the proposed Planning Agreement for public review and comment for twenty-one (21) days, pursuant to Section 2810, subdivision (d) of the NCCPA as revised by SB107.

The NCCPA encourages broad-based planning to protect and conserve the state's wildlife heritage while allowing appropriate development and growth. CDFG is authorized to approve natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) pursuant to the NCCPA, and to enter into agreements with other public agencies or private entities for the conservation of species and habitats.

The County proposes to prepare two regional conservation plans, one each for the unincorporated areas of north and east San Diego County (specifically, the private and County-owned land over which the County has land use jurisdiction). Each plan will be both a NCCP and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. The County desires to design and implement NCCP/HCPs that describe the measures to conserve biological resources while allowing for urban growth and public infrastructure projects.

The primary purpose of the Planning Agreement is to define the goals and obligations in the development of the NCCP/HCPs for the unincorporated areas of north and east San Diego County. Among other things, it also provides a preliminary list of the natural communities, and the endangered, threatened, candidate, or other species that are found, or may be found, in those communities, to provide an initial focus of the NCCP/HCPs. The execution of the Planning Agreement is not an approval of the NCCP/HCPs, but rather an agreement among CDFG, USFWS, and the County to a process for the development of the proposed NCCP/HCPs.

CDFG invites the public to review and comment on the proposed Planning Agreement. The document can be viewed on the internet at CDFG's website at http://www.CDFG.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/status.html or the County's website at www.mscp-sandiego.org. Upon request, a paper copy also can be sent by mail or facsimile by contacting Cindy Hailey at 858 467-4269 or picked up in person at the South Coast Regional Office of CDFG at the address at the top of this Notice.

All comments should be sent to the address listed at the top of this Notice. The period for public review and comment will close twenty-one (21) days after the date of this Notice. Comments received on or before July 11, 2008 will be reviewed.

Date: June 20, 2008

Signature Printed name:

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Title

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